SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — March 6, 1972

No 137

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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South Vietnamese Women

THE South Vietnamese Women's Liberation Union, whose anniversary coincides with the Women's International Day, was born 11 years ago — March 8, 1961.

Looking back to the path traversed in over a decade, we — and our friends in all continents — feel gratified and proud that the South Vietnamese women's movement has rapidly grown up in every field. Indeed, everywhere and in every aspect of the fighting front, one has been witnessing the wholehearted and outstanding contributions of women, of their soft but resolute hands, of their creative minds, and of their hearts faithful to the revolution, brimming with affection for their countrymen and implacable hatred for the enemy. As the confrontation grows fiercer, more heroines have emerged from among the long-haired fighters like flowers in a garden in spring. Nguyen Thi Ut, Ta Thi Kieu, Nguyen Thi Hanh, Kan Lich, Nguyen Thi Lai, Nguyen Viet Hong, Mai Thi Non, Le Thi Hong Gam and so many other unknown heroines have illustrated the women's latent capabilities and upheld their tradition of "heroism, undauntedness, faithfulness and all-sided responsibility."

ON the counter-pacification front — the hardest of all — the long-haired army has been acting as one of the main spearheads. Women devise most diversified fighting methods, flexibly combining political actions with combat and persuasion work among adverse troops. With revolutionary violence and together with the people, they have liquidated series of garrisons and "strategic hamlets," destroyed large chunks of the coercive system at the grass-roots level, and seized control in large rural areas around urban centres. Peasants have thus been able to return to their native places and take part in production and the fighting.

The grim contest with the enemy has given rise to countless deeds of gallantry, both collective and individual. The women's guerilla units at Luong Hoa (Long An) and Cai Lay (My Tho) and the one named after Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh — the Deputy C-in-C of the People's Liberation Armed Forces (Ben Tre) — are among the best known. Mme Nam Say, with her inseparable basket of betel, succeeded in bringing no less than a hundred mercenary soldiers back to their families and the revolution. Mme Thach Thi Thanh, a peasant of Khmer descent, led demonstrators into towns in defiance of the enemy guns to demand US troop withdrawal, peace and independence. To Thi Huynh, 19 years old, is the commander of a girl guerilla unit which has never experienced a single reverse. Kan Lich, an illiterate girl of the Pako minority, tirelessly persuaded her young fellow countrymen in the highlands of Thua Thien province to rise up against the Yankees and liberate their villages. Nguyen Thi Hanh, tortured to invalidity, stuck to the people, educated those she mingled with and, with their help, built revolutionary bases right in the occupied zone. Mai Thi Non and Le Thi Hong Gam sought to knock down as many adverse troops as possible before their supreme sacrifices.

Indomitable in counter-pacification, South Vietnamese women evince great patriotic zeal and courage in the rear. In drive after drive, they send their husbands, brothers and sons to the people's army. Behind at home, they contribute their shares of rice and potatoes which they grow and harvest sometimes at the cost of their lives so that the liberation soldiers can eat their fill.

WOMEN also take an active part in the struggle now unfolding with unabated fierceness in urban centres for better living conditions and democratic freedoms, for peace and independence, for US troop withdrawal and the overthrow of the quislings. Not only have field officers of the Saigon army but also American officers had to reckon with them. In this direct confrontation with an enemy armed to the teeth, townswomen are the pride of their countrymen from South to North.

Quach Thi Trang marched with head erect among street demonstrators and fell down, hit by the enemy's bullets, in front of the Saigon Market Hall. Le Thi Rieng, a mass organization cadre, dedicated her whole life to the emancipation of women. Buddhist student Phan Thi Mai, alias Nhat Chi Mai, immolated herself by burning as a supreme protest against war. Woman worker Pham Thi Hong, savagely tortured during seven years in one after another jail, has remained loyal to the revolution. Student Vo Thi Thang received her sentence of twenty years' hard labour for having disposed of a Saigon district chief, with a calm smile showing unshakable confidence in the ultimate triumph of her just cause. With a pistol in each hand, Pham Thi Oanh, a young water carrier, rushed into the American Embassy during the 1968 Tet offensive and cut down warmongers there. Eleven girls of Hue drove back an entire US battalion. Women workers at Vinatexco, Vinico, Vidopin and other factories tirelessly fought for higher wages and better work and living conditions. Vendors at the Saigon and Hue market halls went on strike in protest against high taxes, soaring prices and fines.

Rich in content and form, drives for the preservation of fine traditions and habits, of family happiness, and against economic "Vietnamization," have drawn large sections of townswomen. More often than not, the enemy have had to make concessions. Many adhoc organizations have been set up: Committee for the Protection of Women's Dignity, Women's Movement for the Right to Live, Mothers and Wives' Union to Fight for the Return of Their Sons and Husbands, Pupils' and Students' Mothers' Union, etc.

ON the diplomatic front, one which requires not only fervid patriotism and the sense of national pride but also lofty internationalism and resourcefulness to unmask the adversary and enlist universal support, women have proved to be no indifferent fighters. Viet Nam's friends are proud of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, and others whose denunciations of US aggressive, genocide war have silenced American pleas.

FROM country to town, from the liberated areas to the occupied zone, at home as abroad, in all fields, South Vietnamese women have remarkably done their bits, which has instilled into the people's war an incredible stamina and put on it a most original national stamp. Their contributions have added brilliance to the award accorded them by the NFL Central Committee: Heroic, Undaunted, Faithful and Responsible.

Viet Nam is proud,
Viet Nam steadily marches ahead,
Because in the heart of Saigon
Girls fight for the entire people's happiness.

(In Memoriam **Nhat Chi Mai***)*

From far-away Europe, Swedish women sent a glowing tribute to their Vietnamese sisters: "Thanks to your courage and your charm, you Vietnamese women have become the paragon of the women of our times. We regard you as women of a new world, the world of justice, of peace and equality" (from a letter of the Swedish Women's Union to Vietnamese women).

In our last issue we carried excerpts from part I of the White Book *published by the Committee for Denunciation of US Imperialist's and their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam, on the* Truth on the US Policy of "Vietnamization" of the War.

Now, we present excerpts from part II of the White Book *entitled:*

Nixon's "Vietnamization": a genocidal war crime

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"Vietnamization" of the war leads to escalation of crimes of which pacification is the main measure.

The escalation of crimes finds a most concentrated expression in the pacification program, the main strategic measure of the "Vietnamization" policy. Since the US launched its aggression against South Viet Nam, pacification has been their main concern aiming at repressing the people of South Viet Nam and imposing on them the US neo-colonialist yoke.

Since Nixon came to office, pacification has been done with still greater urgency with a view to saving the Saigon puppet administration from imminent collapse in face of the stepped-up resistance of the patriotic armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, enabling the puppet administration to shoulder the burden of war in replacement of the US expeditionary troops who are forced to withdraw...

The Nixon administration regards pacification as the last battle and the winner will be the victor in the war (*AP*, December 1969). No wonder it has put the greatest efforts in the pacification program. According to Western reports, in the past there years the US spent more than two billion dollars on the pacification program in South Viet Nam and "in expected to spend another billion for the new pacification and development program" (*AFP*, New York, July, 1971). The Nixon administration has ordered the Saigon puppet administration to speedily increase their forces of repression and constraint, and use the combined force of the entire war machine in Saigon set up by the US to bring the South Viet Nam population to their knees.

In 1969, 80 per cent of the activities of the puppet regular troops and 50 per cent of those of the US were devoted to pacification. The Central Intelligence Agency has organized 800 pacification teams comprising more than 44,000 men under the command of 7,400 US advisers (Report at the US Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, February 2, 1970).

In execution of their pacification plan, the US-puppets have resorted to the most brutal and perfidious measures, including military force to kill people en masse, raze whole villages and hamlets to deny the people all sources of living and force them into concentration camps called "strategic hamlets," to make the people renounce the revolution and submit to them. But under Nixon, the pacification measures have surpassed in scope and atrocity those under the Johnson administration. In fact, these consist in massive raids by aircraft on populated centres, uninterrupted ground operations under the "kill all, burn all and destroy all" policy, the concentration of people by most brutal measures into concentration camps after their villages have been razed, the constant repression and terror against the people, pushing the people penned up in concentration camps and in the areas under their temporary control into a most miserable life. These are "Phoenix" operations and "For the people" operations to carry out indiscriminate arrests, murders and massive liquidations, extremely barbarous torture and imprisonment of patriots and civilians who fall to their hands.

In a word, pacification is a policy of massacre, destruction, repression, terror and dishonour on a national scale. It is in essence a war of genocide against the South Viet Nam people.

Chemicals have been used in a concentrated manner in the Mekong river delta and other populated centres along the South Central Viet Nam coast. The chemicals destroyed crops, killed domestic and draught animals, deny food to the people and force them to leave their villages for concentration camps. South Viet Nam which was once a rice exporter and exported annually nearly one and a half million tons of paddy, runs short of food as result of the large-scale devastation by toxic chemicals.

During many pacification "sweeps," US, puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops even pumped gas into bomb-shelters of the population, killing whoever stay in these shelters. Those who survived were forced to leave for concentration camps.

Together with bombs, shells and toxic chemicals, they also used tanks, armoured cars and bulldozers of the twenty-ton type to level whole villages. They used fire and flame-throwers to burn down all thatched houses, and mines to blast down all brick houses and shelters and level whole hamlets.

The Nixon administration has speeded up the creation of a mass exodus by increasing the systematic destruction of rural areas. Combined methods of extermination have produced an unprecedented degree of fierceness: carpet bombings massive shellings, "kill all, burn all, destroy all" raids, chemical sprays, bulldozing... Unable to live in their native land, more and more peasants have settled down in city suburbs where they were herded into "refugees camps" or "resettlement centres." More ruthless still, the US-puppets killed, beat and forcibly concentrated them into disguised concentration camps. The destruction of villages in South Viet Nam is also aimed at dashing the peasants' hope of returning to their native land.

According to a report by the US Senate's Legislation Sub-Committee on Refugees, the total of refugees in South Viet Nam had amounted to nearly 6 million out of the 17 million people...

At present, in furtherance of a premeditated and very wicked plan of the Nixon admimistration, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration is forcibly removing millions of people in Quang Tri and other provinces in northern South Viet Nam to concentration camps in the South Viet Nam delta. This is a big and most brutal relocation plan ever seen...

The relocation plan has been carried out under the Central Intelligence Agency's command and with "support" from "Air America." The relocation plan applied to the provinces south of the 17th parallel is in fact a plan for gradual extermination of millions of civilians which is similar to the plan to immigrate all inhabitants in New England to the Western part of South America in the past.

American lawyer Telford Taylor, former prosecutor at the Nuremberg Tribunal, noted that this is one of the crimes for which the leaders of the fascist Germany were executed (The *Globe and Mail*, Jan. 29, 1971).

Repression has been stepped up in the towns as well. The Saigon puppet administration has announced its policy to crack down on anybody standing for peace, neutrality and independence, and for the establishment of national union. Nguyen Van Thieu himself has said: "My government may be killed by these pacifists. But, before we die, these people must die."

With a police force totalling over 120,000 men and modernized, trained and equipped by the US to co-operate with the puppet army, the US-puppets have conducted police operations in almost all the towns to put out the patriotic movement of the people and get more men for the puppet army.

The US-puppets carried out particularly ferocious repression of the students and pupils who are a shock force of the patriotic movement of the townspeople.

Along with the trampling on the individual liberty, the freedom of association, the freedom of study, the Saigon administration has also grossly encroached upon the freedom of expression, the freedom of thinking, especially the patriotic sentiments. The papers and periodicals which speak out the aspiration for peace, independence, democracy and national concord of the South Vietnamese people, which dare expose to some extent the truth about the slavish, dictatorial, warlike and rotten nature of the Saigon puppet administration and the aggressive and colonialist nature as well as the crimes of the US against the South Vietnamese people, are subject to down-right repression by various means such as confiscation of papers, fine, imprisonment and even manhandling of their directors and ransacking of the editorial office.

NOTE-BOOK ON CRIMES

Rampant famine

THIEU's "Autumn economic revolution" has had as one of its aftermaths a serious famine in enemy-held areas in Central Trung Bo. The people have now to live on banana tubers and wild vegetables or on daily hand-outs from district or province authorities as is the case of the inhabitants of many villages in Hai Lang district, Quang Tri province. In many places, people have to feed their children with a kind of a soup made of tubers and cactus. All this does not prevent the US-Thieu from carrying out "sweeps" and looting raids, burning dwelling houses and continuing their forcible relocation of population and recruitment of soldiers.

Dien Tin (Telegraph) in its Feb. 3, 1972 issue pointed out: "The famine now prevailing in Central Trung Bo is a result of US policy of aggression. It's easy to see that US-Thieu deforestation has given rise to floods and consequently to famine. Nevertheless the Thieu administration has shown no concern and no sense of responsibility in such a calamity...

Rabbit cages or camouflaged tiger cages

THE US-Thieu regime continues to build new jails for patriotic and peace-loving South Vietnamese. In Con Son Island (Poulo Condor) alone, a number of new prisons is under construction by the US firm RMK. *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) reported on Feb. 3, 1972 that "8 political prisoners recently back from Con Son Island had denounced the building of 640 new jails at Trai Bai. The US-Thieu call these jails 'rabbit cages,' each cage being intended for 4 people. Their sizes and appearance show no difference from 'tiger cages' or 'cow cages'. The same witnesses stressed that Con Son penitentiary regime had undergone no change, and might be even harsher and more brutal."

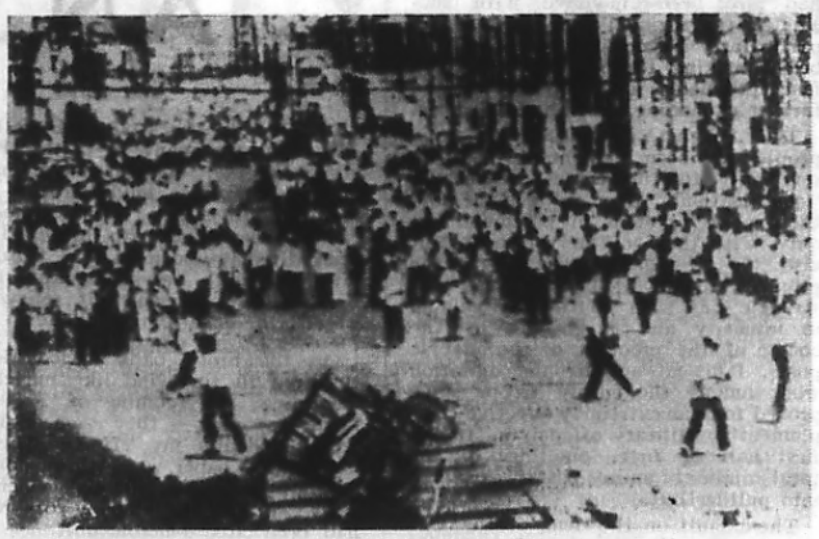
Reprisals on orphans

THE Long Thanh orphanage (Bien Hoa province) is a home for orphans from the US war of aggression. The US-Thieu has many times resorted to coaxing to draft them into the Saigon army or send them to spy-training schools to be turned into enemies of the people. Confronted with the children's opposition, they took savage reprisals. On the night of Feb. 4, 1972, they sent 15 vehicles loaded with policemen on a sudden raid on the Long Thanh orphanage. Tear-gas grenades were hurled at the sleeping children, killing five, 14 others were walked off along with a Buddhist monk in charge of the establishment.

US-Saigon Navy frogmen on a looting raid

ON Feb. 12, 1972, a motor-boat carrying 100 Tet shoppers, mostly women and children, and a big amount of goods collided with a war-boat of the US-Thieu on the Nguyen Tan Thanh arroyo, west of My Tho province. The motor-boat was sent to bottom, 90 people drowned and many others were injured. Frogmen on the war-boat lost no time to dive into the water and appropriated all the passengers' belongings including watches on the dead's wrists. After finishing their looting raid, they vanished. Several days later, corpses were still seen floating on the arroyo.

Urban people demonstrating against US-Thieu administration



IN THE CITIES

o The Van Hanh General Association of students has lodged a protest against Thieu's policy of high education "pacification", and pressed for the immediate release of their illegally detained mates. The statement called on the intelligentsia and leaders of political organisations to militate for an end to the above said policy of retaliation, to the undermining of the students' and people's healthy and progressive activities and the release of the students arbitrarily detained by them.

o Hundreds of students of Minh Duc, Van Hanh and Hoa Hao Universities held in the morning of February 3 a press conference in protest against the Thieu public-private higher education examination system designed to draft students into the army.

The students hung many anti-draft streamers right in front of their universities. 24 of them staged a 24-hour fast. All the students of the said universities boycotted classes to support the action.

o The Saigon, Can Tho, Hue and Van Hanh Students' Unions and the Catholic and Buddhist Students' Associations have signed a joint statement against Thieu's "Autumn economic revolution", for the release of the students and pupils illegally arrested by them, cancellation of the forcible conscription of students and lower prices of the rice and other commodities.

o The Federation of Maritime Workers has lodged a protest against the bosses for not only refusing to increase the workers' wage and pay their 13th monthly salary, but also mobilizing police agents to intimidate it and replacing the workers with troops. The Federation called on all workers and sailors of the shipping branch to stand ready to fight against the puppet authorities' stubborn attitude.

o On the eve of Tet festival, the quisling authorities in Cai Be district capital (My Tho province) exacted contributions from 3,000 to 5,000 piastres (Saigon currency) for a spring tree for the armymen. The latter were ordered 100 per cent off the streets and forbidden to return home to celebrate Tet amidst their families.

Such extortions met with strong opposition from the local people who resolutely claimed the presence of their men at home during the festive days.

o Paying no regard to the traditional Tet festival, the Thieu clique hurled on February 11 a large field police force into a surprise raid on the Long Thanh Orphanage in Bien Hoa province. They arrested the bonze, head of the institution, chased out the monks who looked after the children and moved thousands of these to other places. Earlier on February 5, they also sent armed police agents riding in 15 trucks on an operation against the same orphanage, killing on the spot 3 children with hand-grenades and brutally manhandled the monks in charge of the establishment.

o 8 political prisoners just back from Con Dao (Poulo Condor Island) prison denounced that besides notorious "tiger cages," the US-Thieu stooges had completed the building at the Bai jail area of 640 new prison wards called "rabbit cages" which are no less barbarous. The same prisoners made known that the penitentiary regime at Con Dao prison remained unchanged despite universal sense of horror for the "tiger cages."

o People in Quang Tri provincial capital lived in a very strained situation at the coming of the recent Tet festival. Cases of robbery and plunder were daily occurrences. Most of the robbers and bandits wore marine, paratroop or police uniforms and rode in military vehicles. Prices of commodities there spiralled. Few buyers were seen at the markets. Many families could not afford any Tet chopping and only purchased prime necessities.

SAIGON PRESS DENOUNCES

THIEU'S "AUTUMN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION"

Escalation of prices of medicines and medicare

An increase in the tax on medicines, up to 300% on a variety of items, has put them out of the reach of large segments of the population. Hence the spreading of epidemics such as cholera, whooping cough, plague and typhoid fever.

In an article in *Dien Tin* of January this year, a member of the Saigon Lower House warned: "In the next six months the incidence of epidemic diseases will rise and seriously threaten the health of the working people. The price of such anti-tuberculosis medicines as Rifidin went up from 165 to 300 piastres. The patient has to pay 900 piastres a day for medicare. Affected firm employees will be dismissed; government supernumerary functionaries who, if hospitalized, should pay 1,000 piastres for medicines and another 1,000 for treatment, cannot but helplessly witness the destruction of their bodies by diseases and wait for death in silent despair.

Government-managed hospitals lack therapeutic means. Many private ones, short of surgical, testing and other instruments, have closed down. The prices of instruments have skyrocketed too. Catgut alone for a big surgical operation costs more than 12,000 piastres.

Everything falls on the shoulders of the poor, who, when they are sick, bear the brunt of the sharp escalation of prices of medical instruments, medicaments and hospital fees.

After the "austerity taxes," the "parallel taxes" and the "autumn economic revolution" farces the poor are bags of bones, waiting to starve or die of diseases."

Escalation of necessities' prices

"Lately the prices of rice of various kinds shot up from 5,000 to 6,800 even 11,000 piastres per 100 kilos, that of (unrefined) sugar from 70 to 80 piastres per kilo, that of a can of (homemade) tinned milk from 46 to 85 piastres, that of wheat flour from 65 to 70 piastres per kilo and those of eggs, waterlily, tomato from 100 to 212%.

As from January last, the inhabitants of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces have been eating American rice costing 7,000 piastres per 100 kilos. Most of the babies in Central Trung Bo have to content themselves with American rice soups and sugar for lack of milk" (*Song Than*, Jan. 1972).

In the capital city of Tay Ninh market prices have been soaring up since early 1972: "1kg of pork costs 100 piastres more, a can of tinned milk is dearer 33 piastres, 100 kilos of glutinous rice by 9,500 piastres and a metre of cotton fabric by 400 piastres. Simultaneously, to make bad worse for the masses, Thieu's hirelings force them to pay a ransom amounting to scores of thousands of piastres for the return of their relatives or valuable property that they have captured in sweeps.

In provincial and district towns, even in Saigon - Gia Dinh, rampant is the plundering in broad daylight of wallets, handbags, jewels and building materials. This state of things is regarded by townsfolk as a by-product of the 'Americanized' society in occupied South Viet Nam.

In the Saigon area, the prices of fodder have gone up from 100 to 200%. According to breeders in the city, this is due to the fact that, the Thieu administration having allowed the import of pork and chickens, the Saigon Veterinary Department carried out the mass killing of pigs through injection. The total of head killed so far reached 4,000 in number of breeding farm" (*Tin Dien*, Jan. 12, 1972).

Escalation of protest

A sizable number of civil servants of the puppet administration in Khanh Hoa province signed petition "protesting against the autumn economic measures" as patched ones no better than "austerity taxes" and other measures that had been unsuccessfully applied. They held that the said measures had paralysed the people's normal life and reduced the townsfolk to misery. The petition urged that the Thieu administration "take immediate steps to end the critical situation." *Dien Tin* wrote that it was Thieu's intention to force the population to "eat unhusked rice and sesame and drink river water." "It's an unpopular move," the Saigon paper added.

Thach Do reported that "war wounded and invalids of the Saigon army in Ninh Thuan province were preparing for violent street demonstrations against Thieu's local agents who acted in concert with profiteers to raise the prices of necessities."

à la nixon

"Departed without leaving address"

PARIS was harassed by Washington into banning the Versailles World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina. The reason was the very bad impact of the said assembly on the Paris peace talks.

Paris preserved her dignity and Washington continued her manners. Nixon's representative at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, William Porter, termed "hired applauders" and "horde of agitators" the delegates to the Versailles Assembly, and made it a reason to postpone sine die *the Paris peace talks. The two delegations which called upon Porter with a strong protest of the Versailles Assembly were told that he had "departed without leaving his address."!*

He could be found somewhere in Charenton*.

CHAU LONG

* A well-known French mental establishment.

No US armor can resist the PLAF devastating punches

ADVERSE SYSTEM OF POSTS SHAKEN TO ITS FOUNDATION

UNDER their "rural pacification" program, the US and Saigon authorities have set up a thick network of military posts in almost all villages and hamlets. According to the terrain, population density and strength of local revolutionary movement, from 1 to 3 strongholds have been built in each hamlet, an average of 7 to 10 posts in each village, defended by the militia force. The structure constitutes the main military mainstay for the wicked thugs and US-Saigon repressive machinery there. With strong fortifications supported by air force and artillery, it has become an inter-related occupation system in each village with close connections, mutual support and assistance. The US and hirelings regard it as a "hard crust" for their defensive posture and a springboard for the expansion of their "pacification" raids.

But the gains won by the South Vietnamese army and people in the anti-"pacification" movement in the past year have proved that the strong point of the adverse system of military installations is but temporary and its weak point quite fundamental.

Posts are a creation of the defensive strategy. They have been set by the US-Saigon regime from losing and weak posture under the impact of the South Vietnamese people's widespread people's war movement. Forced to be scattered for territorial occupation and control, the enemy force has had to be spread thinner, and has thus exposed many flaws and consequently come under shattering onsets. Moreover, the system of posts can only subsist thanks to the cover of the mobile regular force, air force and artillery. Now that the American troops have been gradually withdrawing from the battlefields, the air and artillery support has become ever more limited, the main prop remains the Saigon mobile regular army. The latter's heavy losses on all the South Viet Nam battlefields in the past year, especially following the "campaigns" on Highway 9 — South Laos and Northeast Cambodia, have reduced its own effectiveness and the self-defence ability of the posts.

Every day series of them are levelled or large chunks of their network shattered in all places, especially in key "pacification" areas.

In this confrontation, the South Vietnamese army and people have been applying in a versatile manner various forms of struggle, coordinating the three spearheads-combat, political action and agitation work among the Saigon army, with stress on the latter activity-and accelerating the enemy deliquescence. The South Vietnamese people have clearly realized that though the adverse regional force defending the posts is rather large, their anti-war spirit has been strengthened by its reverses and ensuing confusion, and the number of cruel and die-hard commanders is not large. The posts are manned mostly by local young men, having close or blood relationship with the people there. Thanks to the humane and lenient policy of the PRG of the RSVN and the stirring exhortations of the NFL, their relatives and fellow countrymen, more and more Saigon troops have grown alive to the national sense, mutinied or joined the people's ranks with their arms.

The strength of the enemy system of rural posts is greatly restricted, whereas its weakness becomes apparent and aggravated: a clear realization of the invincible strength of the people's war at its pitch and the fundamental foible of the US-Saigon defence system prompted the South Vietnamese army and people in the past year to focus their efforts on levelling adverse positions or forcing their garrisons to abandon them while checking or beating off their "pacification" raids. Credited with outstanding achievements in this respect have been the army and people in the Mekong River delta where, as reported by Western correspondents, the number of US-puppet military installations overrun in the first 6 months of 1971 exceeded that in the whole of 1970. In such populated provinces as Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, My Tho..., a monthly average of 60 to 80 adverse posts is wiped out. The army and people in various delta provinces of Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper) such as Phu Yen, Binh Dinh... repeatedly attacked and "disintegrated" the US-Saigon network of posts by large segments. In several districts of Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, the adversary was forced to withdraw from nearly 100 per cent of posts, among them many "hard bolts" were evacuated after a wave of attacks, for a short period of time, by local guerillas. In many other important places such as East Nam Bo, South Trung Bo..., series of assaults and sieges of enemy posts had also been mounted with success by the regional army and people, particularly since mid 1971. They have been breaking through the enemy defence perimeters made up of posts and further expanding the liberated areas.

The South Vietnamese army and people have been undauntedly and perseveringly fighting against the enemy "pacification" plan in general and their posts' system in particular not only with their military strength but also the aggregate strength of the people's war in various localities. This struggle has been continually gaining in intensity and magnitude in the course of the erection of the adverse posts. Political actions and agitation work among the enemy troops have proved to be an extremely effective complement to military offensives. In the first half of 1971, one-third of the total number of enemy posts was talked into pulling out.

The assault on the dens of the US-puppet "pacification" and coercive forces in many areas have been on the increase. Several districts in the Nam Bo delta region have made the flattening of posts their foremost task in their effort against local "pacification." Many villages though lying in the midst of the thick network of enemy military positions have had the initiative to form teams specialized in assaulting them in villages or hamlets. They have shown a high combat efficiency despite their small strength and equipment mainly consisting of home made or captured arms. In some nights, they overran 2 or 3 strongholds, and at times a 3-man group was able to quickly put out of action a squad-strong garrison.

The South Vietnamese army and people's ever increasing activities against "pacification" have rocked the US-Saigon system of posts to its foundations. As a result, their repressive machinery has also been visibly weakened. The adverse rural "pacification" scheme has been put to hard tests and its complete collapse is only a matter of time.

AN EARLY SPRING BATTLE

WITH a knapsack on my back I was after Company 61 of the PLAF for two straight days but in vain. My young guide crossed the jungle at full speed. I had almost to run to keep pace with him and was dead tired by noon on the third day after fording a brook. Looking up, I found a blue sky and felt relieved: I was on the edge of the jungle.

On the brook bank apricot flowers fluttered in the wind like butterflies. Heralding the coming of *Tet* — the lunar new year — they seemed to urge me to redouble my efforts. The Tet issue of my paper was waiting for the account of a dramatic engagement in early spring of Company 61 which had been cited a heroic unit.

An hour later I rejoined it. Company leader Lam Van Kien welcomed me with an affectionate smile. No word could describe my joy as I shook hands with him. Having no time to lose, I came straight to the point.

I roughly knew the history of the unit. It was formed in 1961, hence its name and soon afterwards shifted from the Mekong delta to the hilly region of eastern Nam Bo. It was credited with a little over 100 successful battles and commended accordingly. Its officers and men inflicted 500 enemy casualties, five times as many as its own troops strength. What I wanted to get was however the first-hand account of an electrifying operation in that very Spring of 1968.

At my question, Lam Van Kien said with a knowing smile:

"I see you want to interview me, don't you?"

And as though he needed no time to recollect, he went on:

"I think I can relate to you a battle in the western suburb of Saigon city."

"'Toward Saigon!', we received these marching orders one night while pitching camp in a mangrove jungle in early spring. We deployed immediately, running for six hours on end to reach the rallying point on time, having almost forgotten to eat and rest at the last stage. Joining forces with other units of ours we irrupted into Bien Hoa autostrade, and broke through the railways to the east of Saigon. Enemy soldiers guarding a bridge were knocked out and Marine Battalion No 3 badly battered. We were then directed to move west where a tough clash was to occur."

Kien visibly took a keen interest in relating the developments which ensued, drawing lines on a table with his forefinger.

THE fight started at 7.00 a.m. and lasted the whole day in an open field. Company 61 drew near to the adversary, at about mile and a half from the airport.

After checking the disposition of his unit Kien stood near a bamboo bush on the brink of a trench. He looked round, trying to take in the situation of the adverse side. What was in front of him was a large stalk-covered ricefields with narrow dikes, sparse hedges and not a single tree. The entire area lay within the range of the guns and mortars of surrounding garrisons. From perfectly conspicuous watch-towers the enemy could also rain bullets on the field that his company was about to run across.

"The operation taxes our cleverness to the full," Kien thought. He remained calm and pondered. At daybreak he ordered:

"Everybody down into the trenches. Keep an eye on the airport."

The company leader gazed again at the battle array of his men and stepped into his underground CP. Two reconnaissance planes L. 19 roared overhead, followed by a thundering armed chopper which dived and rocketed the "strategic hamlet." From all directions guns barked. Many dwellings were set ablaze while trees collapsed. On Kien's order, two three-man groups sprang up from their fortifications to fight fires endangering the population.

Following an hour's shelling, fighter jets zeroed in and bombed without discrimination. The command staff decided: "Let's get ready, they're sallying out."

Company leader Kien emerged from his dug-out and shouted:

"Everybody, ready!"

At the same time news came from a scout: "An American company is moving in our direction."

Braving the enemy's uninterrupted fire, Kien leaped out of the underground CP. He ordered:

"All ready according to plan 3. OK?"

"OK!"

Kien was very glad to hear the firm reply of his men. Then, turning to the polical instructor, he said:

"Let no one of them escape"

Nodding his head, the commissar answered through his cupped hands:

"Than! Attention! Stop them dead on the right."

A round was let off. Ten or so American GIs were mown down. The remnants pulled back.

"Forward!"

Commander Lam Van Kien sprang forward like an arrow. In the van of his unit platoon leader Tran Van Hai pushed forward like a spearhead planted into the Yankee formation. Thereupon Than's right prong closed in upon the enemy's rear. Only 300 more yards from the airfield. The Yanks, aware that they were caught in a pair of pincers, tried to hack out an escape. It was too late. On Kien's command, the machine-guns of Company 61 chopped up the adverse formation. By sections and by groups liberation combatants assailed the adversary. In a hand-to-hand engagement lasting some twenty minutes, a company of the famous US *Red One* Division was knocked out. The Americans in the airfield did not send any rescue party, contenting themselves with artillery shellings for two hours running, thus showering tons of bullets on the battlefield before their tanks and armoured vehicles counter-attacked.

These rumbled forward, visibly attempting to outflank Company 61. Platoon deputy commander forged ahead with an AA gun. An M.41 in the van roared like a wounded wild beast then stopped, noiseless, and sending whirls of dark smoke into the sky. Bi reloaded his gun and destroyed another tank. A dozen of his mates pounced ahead and put eight vehicles out of commission. The first counter-attack was repelled before the enemy reached the field. Artillery shelling resumed, heralding other more violent counter-actions.

Lam Van Kien made a pause. He gazed affectionately at a young fighter who had just passed by, a cluster of canteens on his shoulder. When the latter went out of sight, Kien turned to me, saying:

"That's Huynh Van Hoang, a destroyer of armoured vehicles."

In a fresh counter-attack M.41s rumbled toward the flank of Company 61. Hoang jumped out of his underground and crawled as near as possible the adverse column. With two AA bullets he wrecked two tanks. He was blasted unconscious by an artillery shell. As soon as he came to, he heard the grinding of caterpillars and sprang up, his gun firm in his hands. With a third bullet he knocked down another tank, putting an end to the second enemy attempt.

Lam Van Kien went on describing with admiration and pride the exemplary behaviour of his comrades.

In the flames and smoke wrapping the whole battleground Dang Van Ang shuttled from one combat trench to another. While discharging his duty as a medic, he succeeded with an AA gun in turning three armoured cars into iron coffins and thereby foiled a third charge.

Nguyen Van Binh checked a fourth one after blasting three vehicles out of commission. He volunteered to lead a three-man team detailed from the company's formation to deal with adverse aircraft and divert their fire in his direction. With a machinegun he brought down a scouter plane and Chinh, with an AK, grounded two HU-1A choppers. Ba Kien, well known for his resourcefulness and his flexible fighting methods, managed, with his machinegun, to cut to pieces the enemy's formation and beat off their fifth counter-offensive.

All the Company 61 men were awarded the title of elite fighters.

Their Spring 1968 battle was a brilliant one indeed. In a whole day of fiercest fighting at the very gate of Saigon city they held their ground to the end and wiped out an American company in twenty minutes, killed and wounded about 200 officers and men of the rescuing parties, set afire 16 tanks and armoured cars and downed 3 aircraft.

South Viet Nam
the land, people and history

HUE, *city of loyalty and glory*

HUE, the city of loyalty and glory is entering the year 1972. Hue has its royal palaces, its ancient citadels and tombs. Hue has also this proverb which bespeaks the bitterness of its inhabitants:

In the past ten thousand years
Citadels were built with soldiers' bones
And ditches filled with civilians' blood.

And when this hatred brimmed over, the flames of militancy flared up and Hue's palaces and walls were the site of a ceremony for the Nguyen dynasty to hand over to the peoples' its sword and seal, which meant the end of the centuries-old feudal rule of kings and mandarins.

Right at the outbreak of the first nationwide resistance, Hue grimly resisted the French invaders with both military and political actions and after 9 years of efforts made its worthy contribution to the victory of Dien Bien Phu.

New aggressors came. Hue opposed dictatorship, took the lead in the movement to overthow Ngo Dinh Diem and fought against religious discrimination with Buddhist monks taking to the streets.

Hue's workers join hands with civil servants, small traders and side-walk hawkers, in a common drive against the Yanks, all ready to rise up when the revolution wants them to.

There are people in Hue who bear small effigies of Buddha or Jesus Christ, but on their minds is engraved the image of the Fatherland and the nation.

Hue's students, pupils and youth never tire of parading and demonstrating, they readily spend sleepless nights for the sake of peace, democracy and independence.

Like the rest of South Viet Nam, Hue has its own record of 1968 Tet which shook the whole world, including the USA.

Hue can be proud of its eleven Van Duong girls, of martyr-hero Nguyen Van Thai and of innumerable unsung fighters from among cycle-drivers, pedlars, school pupils and teachers, priests and even Saigon soldiers in uniforms.

Hue still remembers these words of our elders: "So long as there remains a leaf of grass, there still are Vietnamese fighting against the French invaders." In Hue is enshrined this teaching of venerated President Ho Chi Minh: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

Hue has taken this pledge:

Though our homes are shattered and destroyed,
We are resolved to drive out the Yanks,
Privations now we endure
But happiness we shall enjoy later.

Hue is loyal to this national tradition:

Red velvet covers the mirror
People of the same nation should
be linked by bonds of affection.

Hueans know how to give mutual help in adversity and to protect one another during the fighting. The city never forgets these young men and girls who, though not born in Hue, have regarded Hue as their native place and made every sacrifice for it.

Rich and poor, male and female, old and young, Catholics and Buddhists in the city or its outskirts have experienced dozens of embattled springs and are marching foward.

A new spring has now set in, with new sap in vegetation and men.

Spring has instilled new vigour into the Hueans. The city has defied all sorts of temptation and poohpoohed all kinds of hypocritical sympathy and peace professions and remains for ever loyal to the country and the nation.

Spring is inviting all those who until now stay aloof from the masses' struggle to warm up their hearts and join the people's ranks.

Spring is calling prodigal sons back to the fold. All hands are needed, let everybody come together and unite in love for the good of the nation.

Tomorrow, in the limelight of victory, Hue will take its place in the parade of the whole country as it has done.

The Hueans will not feel ashamed when remembering their ancestors, when looking at their contemporaries or when thinking of the generations to come, for they have been equal to the glorious past and heroic present of their indomitable city.

Hue, the city of loyalty and glory, is firmly resolved to defeat the US aggressors and their lackeys and to secure complete victory.

Next door to US-occupied areas: Young girl guerillas marvellous weapons — loudspeakers — can blast enemy post

THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a Hungarian Party and Government Delegation led by Mr Jeno Fock, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government, made an official friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

During its stay in Viet Nam, the Hungarian Party and Government Delegation attended a meeting held by the people of Hanoi Capital City in its honour, visited a number of economic and cultural establishments, had many meetings with various social strata, fighters of the Vietnamese people's armed forces. Everywhere, it was accorded an extremely cordial and warm welcome by the Vietnamese people.

The Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government Delegation and the Hungarian Party and Government Delegation held talks on the present situation in Viet Nam and Indochina.

The Hungarian side fully supports the February 2, 1972 Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and the February 5, 1972 Statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam regarding the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

The two sides firmly demand that the US Government stop immediately the war of aggression, put a complete end to the "Vietnamization" policy, seriously respond to the seven-point solution whose two key problems have been elaborated in the February 2, 1972 Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam:

1. The US Government must stop the air war and all military activities in Viet Nam, set a specific date for the complete withdrawal of all troops, military advisers and personnel, weapons and war material of the United States and of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, dismantle the US military bases in South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever.

2. The US Government must really respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, cease all interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. Nguyen Van Thieu must resign immediately, the Saigon administration must put an end to its warlike policy, abolish at once its machine of oppression and coercion against the people, stop its "pacification" policy, disband the concentration camps, set free those persons arrested on political grounds, guarantee democratic liberties to the people as provided for in the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

The implementation of the above will pave the way for the formation of a three-segment government of national concord with a view to the organization of really free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam.

The two sides express full solidarity with the just struggle of the peoples of Laos and Cambodia against the US imperialist aggressors, they fully support the five-point political solution of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Political Programme of the National United Front of Kampuchea.

The Hungarian Delegation points out that the struggle, indefatigable and full of sacrifices, of the Vietnamese people serves the great cause of peace, national independence, democracy, socialism and human progress.

The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government and the Hungarian people affirm their resolve to support and help the Vietnamese people in the patriotic struggle against US aggression until total victory, and in the building of socialism in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people express sincere and profound gratitude to the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government and the fraternal Hungarian people for their powerful support and warm and increasing aid to the Vietnamese people. Since the US imperialists expanded the war of aggression in Viet Nam, Hungary has been one of the first countries which have started a broad and deep mass movement to firmly support Viet Nam against the US aggressors. This movement has developed continuously, powerfully on an increasing scale and in varied forms. This is a fine manifestation of the deep friendship and lofty internationalist sentiments of the Hungarian people toward the Vietnamese people.

The two sides have signed agreements on the non-refund military aid, on new credits extended by the Hungarian People's Republic to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, on the exchanges of goods and settlement of accounts between the two countries in 1972..."

A WATCH NIGHT ATTACK

ON the Têt watch night the dinner was copious and served earlier than usual. The after-meal party—with intensive smoking — soon turned into an exchange of experience in how to down US planes. The last Tet bagging of an A1 in N. filled the unit with renewed ardour. Suddenly an alert was given. Rapidly the gunners made for their batteries.

The marauder was approaching — green and red lights blinking on its tail. Exactly as anticipated, the intruder's flight pattern was different from the past nights'. When it circled for the third time, the commanders wanted to open up, but thought better of it. For a miss would make the aircraft put out its light. Now it climbed down and flew toward C., perhaps it spotted its target. The gunners were boiling with impatience. Just then the plane come within range.

Fire!

The batteries let loose a deluge of shots. The aircraft staggered, its lights put out. A spark flared into a torch.

It was on fire!

The battlefield was all in a commotion. Messages flooded in: the observation post announcing its drop point, the battalion command post sending his praise and new year's wishes, the engineers' unit signalling its congratulations.

At midnight, the company gathered in a dry-stream bed near a bamboo grove and a row of parachute tents. Under the electric light the men's faces were radiant. On the Fatherland altar resplendent with the national flag, Uncle Ho's gaze seemed to smile on us. From a transistor set the national anthem was suddenly heard. And off went the crackers in the exultant mood of the New Year.

QUANG TUAN

Sharp eyes and readiness to down US Thunderchiefs and Phantoms

the DRVN in brief

o On February 19, 1972, the Hanoi Administrative Committee and Viet Nam Fatherland Front Committee held a commemoration of the 183rd anniversary of the Dong Da victory by Quang Trung who routed 200,000 Ch'ing aggressors.

o Vinh Linh zone has just convened a congress of people's representatives for national salvation against US aggression to enhance the revolutionary zeal of the masses, promote their tradition of undaunted fighting, help them fulfil all tasks, make them ready for combat, boost their production, and better organize their daily life.

o In 1972, Hai Hung province will supply farms with 33 million kwh (1.65 times over 1971), raise the volume of capital construction seven times over last year (including the erection of 35kw grids) and build new transformers in order to give more electricity to industrial and agricultural enterprises.

o The Agricultural College II has graduated its first batch of 134 students from the crop-growing and stock-breeding branches.

The newly graduates are eagerly waiting for assignments. Nearly 500 of them have joined the army.

o Control of the disastrous termits has been a concern for world scientists.

The former methods used in North Viet Nam produced few results. A new one has just been devised. It consists in enticing the insects out with a bait then spraying them with a sufficient dose of toxic chemical to let them return to their holes and contaminate others.

The method is cheap and highly efficient.

Viet Nam in Swedes' hearts

VIET NAM has become a household word for the Swedes because of its resistance against American aggression, its National Front for Liberation which many regard as "our hope." The *Support the NFL* slogan can be seen in progressive newspapers, on posters, even on high stone walls along national highways. It hangs on the front of the car which its owner, old worker Frik Ljungmark, has been driving everywhere since 1964. Another has appeared — *Support the Indochinese peoples* — immediately after the US extended its aggressive war to Cambodia and Laos.

Viet Nam week. Since 1966 a *Viet Nam Week* has been observed in Sweden in spring and autumn. Between two such weeks, routine activities include propaganda for Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and fundraising drives to help the South Viet Nam NFL. When American forces invaded Cambodia, over 10,000 protesters demonstrated in front of the US Embassy in Stockholm. This year the autumn week took place from the 3rd to the 10th of October with as its main watchword the backing of the 7-point peace initiative of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and a time-limit for US troop withdrawal.

The PRG 7 points have received warm welcome from Swedish opinion. Prime Minister Palmer has described them as a constructive proposal while Foreign Minister Wickman has supported them in a declaration on July 7. The press considered them a fair and sensible move paving the way for peace. Some friends have likened them to a US "political Dien Bien Phu."

Taking part in this year's Viet Nam Week were scores of organizations representative of all political leanings. They all were against American aggression in Viet Nam, a fact which explains why Stockholm was chosen as a site for international tribunal sessions on US war crimes in Indochina. It's also from Sweden's capital that many a time the voices of no less than a hundred countries have been raised in favour of our people's fight for national salvation.

Every organization had a program of action to back Viet Nam. Trade-Unions hurriedly prepared stories and photographs for a special Viet Nam issue of their paper. Chirstian students had already put out a special number of their own reviewing the process of US aggression in Indochina. The *Young Eagle*, a Boy Scouts' outfit, demanded that US troops pull out of Indochina and that Sweden recognize the PRG. Requests flowed in from everywhere to the *Swedish Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam* and the NFL group for more posters and leaflets. Clever artists even produced propaganda drawings so small that they could be stuck on match boxes.

Mrs Brigitta Dahl, an MP and Chairman of the *Viet Nam Solidarity Committee*, had just returned from Hanoi. She gave a press conference right at the airport about Viet Nam for millions of TV viewers. She quoted at a torchlight procession Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's words: "Today all men of conscience on the earth are militating for a more beautiful life. It's the necessary trend of history. To attain this objective, maybe humanity and human civilization have no other way, if the peoples of all countries want to, than to end war, exploitation and oppression." A worker marching in the van of the procession, pointing to his forehead and chest, said: "Mr Dong's words have sunk into our hearts and minds."

Silence is criminal. On October 2, Stockholm was busy as on a festive day. Streets seemed to be decked in a variegated mantle of blue, red and yellow posters. Hundreds of people here and there were distributing leaflets and collecting money for Viet Nam. For the same purpose theatrical groups performed in the open. *Let's Liberate South Viet Nam* — the official anthem of the RSVN — whose words had long since been translated into Swedish — was sung in meetings and demonstrations. Up to that day three sets of records had been made of songs on Viet Nam.

On the same occasion the first film for slide projectors came out under the title: "What Has Happened in Indochina?" On American war crimes the film is unequivocal: "We can no longer call this a conflict in Southeast Asia, but a genocidal war." In conclusion, it recalls Lincoln's words saying that silence in the face of crime is complicity.

During the last Viet Nam week rallies, parades, torchlight processions occurred in well over a hundred places throughout the country, more ebullient than ever before. It's hard indeed to list all the activities of so many friends who have been silently supporting our people since we were fighting against the French colonialists.

A signature-collecting campaign. Itinerant teams exhibited pictures and showed Vietnamese films in widely different places across Sweden. Art students had their own "expo" of photographs accompanied by models — both interesting and easy to understand. A number of dealers, with the co-operation of local authorities, displayed Vietnamese handicraft at Vesteras. Mr Simson of the organizing committee told me: "I deeply admire the Vietnamese people. In fierce war conditions you can afford to go on developing your traditional handicraft in a marvellous fashion. I want to make my people share this admiration through a number of goods, carpets, palm-leaf hats and rubber sandals — Viet Nam's seven-league boots." It's the users of these sandals who have instilled confidence into our friends.

More than 110 members of Parliament of various political parties had given their signatures for the PRG 7 points. The signature-collecting campaign has spread out to the streets, schools, factories and building yards. Thus far about a million signatures have been gathered including those of artistes, writers, journalists and the young philosophers who, upon the bombing of the DRVN by American planes, called at the US Embassy with a protest letter. The Swedes who were present could not help laughing because of some Embassy officials feared that the unarmed group were going to occupy their mission.

Prayers for the 7 points. In the Cathedral of Lund, in the presence of 300 followers a bishop thus prayed: "Lord, we cannot stand idle looking at scenes of oppression and suffering being endured by the Indochinese peoples. God bless the combatants fighting for liberty and independence in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. Lord, please give thy blessings to the 7 points of the Provisional Revolutionary Government so that peace may be soon re-established in Indochina."

Of late, requests have been addressed to our Bureau by several schools for briefing sessions and lectures on Viet Nam and its people's resistance to foreign invasion.

Political documents aside, valuable literary works have been translated into Swedish, such as *Kim Van Kieu*, *Prison Diary*, To Huu's *Poems*, Vietnamese selected short stories.

To introduce to Swedish readers the education now being dispensed to the younger generation, a friend translated a lesson from a morals textbook (7th form, junior middle school) that he had brought back from Viet Nam, and got it published in a newspaper. Presenting the lesson, he said the Vietnamese possess a millenary civilization and lofty moral values, which accounts for their courage and their victories.

What to do next? The Viet Nam week in Stockholm came to a close with a demonstration attended by representatives from 84 organizations. 6,000 people took to the streets with slogans pressing for a serious US response to the PRG 7 points, US pull-out from Indochina, recognition of the PRG by Sweden. The paraders carried through the capital city's streets flags of the PRG, the DRVN, the Lao Patriotic Front and the Royal Government of Cambodia. A placard showed Nixon drinking, his mouth stained all over with Vietnamese and Attica blood.

The protestors gathered in front of Parliament. There I met again the same friends of Viet Nam who had burned US flags four years ago. The same age as Viet Nam's resistance, they had grown up with it. That day again they set fire to US and the Saigon regime's flags with the sole difference that more people hailed their deed this time. As before I saw mothers pushing landaus, fathers carrying their sons on their shoulders and activists defying scandinavian cold and working indefatigably day and night for Viet Nam.

So far some 4.5 million *krona* have been raised for the NFL and 40 cases of medical instruments sent to Viet Nam. Last May the Swedish government announced an initial donation of 3 million *krona* to the NFL. All that, however, has left many Swedes unsatisfied. At a rally in Osby, a village to the South of the country, an old man asked this question: "What shall we do next as practical help to our Vietnamese friends?"

Here in Sweden the majority of the people have realized that association with Viet Nam is association with the struggle for peace and freedom. "The fight of the Vietnamese people is ours," these oft-heard words throw light on their past and present actions.

TRINH VAN ANH

RSVN Information Bureau, Sweden.

Swedes manifesting their solidarity with the Vietnamese people against US aggressors

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR RSVN PRG FEBRUARY 2 STATEMENT

THE February 2 Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has elicited prompt and wholehearted support from progressives the world over.

From the statements of the Governments of the Chinese People's Republic, the KDPR, the GDR..., of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Foreign Ministry of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, of various world and regional organizations (such as the WFTU, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization...), national organizations, political parties and mass organizations of several countries (namely the Indian Council, the Denmark-Viet Nam Solidarity Committee, the Swedish Left-wing Communist Party...), of the GI Deserters Committee in Sweden... to the declarations of the Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, the President of the Congolese People's Republic, the Speaker of the Guinean National Assembly, the Vice-Chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, the Polish Foreign Minister, the acting Chilean Foreign Minister, the Vice-Foreign Minister of the Egyptian Arab Republic, and Party and State leaders of other countries, all voiced approval of, and support for, and warmly welcomed, the Vietnamese people's righteous position, strongly condemned the US peace manoeuvre and agreed that the RSVN PRG February 2 Statement provided a sound logical and reasonable basis for a fair peace in Viet Nam and Indochina.

Highly praising the RSVN PRG and DRVN Feb. 2 and 5 Statements, the Lao Patriotic Front's statement wrote: "The momentous statements glowing with the 'nothing is more precious than independence and freedom' truism are at the same time a crushing verdict on the US imperialists' crime of aggression and US President Nixon's 8-point peace plan."

The Chinese Government made it clear that "the US 8-point peace plan is a scheme to prolong and expand the Viet Nam aggressive war, to occupy South Viet Nam for a long time by means of 'Vietnamization,' and to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony." It demanded that "the US government accept the RSVN PRG 7-point peace initiative, end its aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

The Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers said: "The CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government and people fully support the righteous position of the DRVN Government and RSVN PRG which stand for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. They reaffirm the Soviet Union's unswerving and resolute backing for the Vietnamese people's just resistance against US aggression and will strengthen their political support for and military assistance to the Vietnamese people in their anti-US, pro-national salvation cause."

"The Vietnamese people will surely win complete victory," the Guinean National Assembly Speaker stated, "because the heroic Vietnamese people have a judicious guideline, justice on their side and constantly prove to be full of goodwill, sense and reason. Their fight is a beacon for other nations; men of feeling must back the Vietnamese people."

Approval of and support for the RSVN PRG February 2 Statement were also expressed by people in several countries under variegated forms. At a meeting in Nykobing, a big city of Denmark, the participants adopted a resolution fully endorsing the PRG 7-point peace initiative and February 2 Statement, as a logical and reasonable basis for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. They demanded an end to the US criminal scheme of "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam and Nguyen Van Thieu's immediate resignation. In 3 days beginning February 4, 1972, nearly 100 letters, messages, and nearly 1,000 letters and petitions bearing over one million signatures were sent to RSVN and DRVN Embassies in Cuba and the GDR, voicing support for the Vietnamese people's legitimate effort, urging total US troop withdrawal and the scrapping of traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

"Obviously, the RSVN PRG has shown its will for peace and its readiness to negotiate with the US a fair solution. All the progressives (in the world) are on the Vietnamese and Indochinese people's side." This was a commentary by the GDR paper *New Germany* in its February 5 issue. It reflected the widespread view of the press throughout the world in the past days regarding the RSVN PRG February 2 Statement.

It was representative of the progressive mankind's position regarding the South Vietnamese people's just struggle, the US imperialists' stubborn prolongation of the aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina and their attempt to deceive the US and world public opinion.

For Viet Nam, Trafalgar Square resounding with angry shouts: "Out with the US imperialists!"

in brief

o *In Moscow, the city's Party Committee, the USSR Trade Unions Central Committee, the USSR Support Viet Nam Committee, the World Peace Committee and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the USSR held a gathering on Feb. 22 to show support to the struggles of the Indochinese peoples and hail the success of the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina held in Versailles. The audience passed a resolution saying, among other things, "We approve the declaration of the World Assembly urging that the United States end its attempt to force the Indochinese peoples to submit to its will, and respond seriously to the constructive 7-point proposal advanced by the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam and reaffirmed and elucidated on in its Feb. 2 Statement."*

o *USSR - Irak, USSR-Finland and Poland-Yemen joint communiqués expressed solidarity with, and support to, the Indochinese peoples' resistances, strongly condemned the United States acts of aggression and pointed out that the sound and only practicable basis for a solution to the Vietnamese problem is the 7-point proposal of the PRG.*

o *The 11th Congress of the Liberal-Democratic Party of the German Democratic Republic unanimously voted on Feb. 2 for a resolution aimed at "strengthening solidarity with the Indochinese peoples' legitimate fights for independence and liberty." "The heroic efforts of the Indochinese peoples," the resolution emphasized, "serve the just objectives of the whole of progressive mankind and we actively associate ourselves with it in the common interests of all."*

o *300 representatives of the peace movement, mass organizations and government bodies in Mali attended a meeting organized in Bamako by the local peace organizations in support for the resistances of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples. The resolution passed by the assembly scored US aggression and savage crimes in Viet Nam and Indochina and demanded that the United States totally and unconditionally pull out its troops, advisers, military personnel and war materials and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam and Indochina.*

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

THE PHILIPPINES: A demonstration by 20,000 students broke out on January 24 in front of Congress Building when Marcos came to deliver his "message on the state of the country." The marchers shouted: "Marcos, puppet", "Down with the fascist rule and poverty"..., and burned Uncle Sam and Marcos in effigy. The Philippines President had to postpone the delivery of the message for 5 hours.

On the same day, another parade by workers and labouring people erupted in front of the US Embassy against US control over Philippine economy.

THAILAND: The patriotic armed forces, with the people's active support, successfully attacked the enemy in several places. In 1971, 10 adverse posts were flattened. From December 11, 1971 to January 20, 1972 alone, 86 government troops were killed or wounded. The enemy raids on Phitsanoulok and Tac provinces were beaten off with 50 men killed and 2 aircraft downed.

PALESTINE: The guerillas wiped out 2,500 adverse men, destroyed 4 planes and 276 military vehicles including 26 tanks, and levelled off 47 barracks or important positions among them the intelligence centre in Jerusalem, in 1,200 onsets, big or small, mounted in 1971 in Gaza, Sinai and Golan, on the western bank of the Jordan River and on Israeli territory.

MOZAMBIQUE: The patriotic armed forces launched in October and November 1971 38 attacks on the Portuguese colonialist troops in Cabo Delgado, putting out of combat 220 of them, wrecked 26 vehicles and damaged 3 bridges Especially in late last October, 60 casualties were inflicted 13 vehicles, 2 billets and 3 bridges destroyed in Niassa province.

ANGOLA: Between August and November 1971, the patriotic armed forces assaulted the enemy on all the battlefields, wiping out 170 Portuguese colonialist troops, capturing a big amount of weapons and war materials. The Central Committee of the MPLA decided on February 4, 1971 to convene the movement's first congress to consider the founding of the people's army and political organs in the liberated areas.

GUINEA (BISSAU): In December 1971, the liberation armed forces knocked out 213 Portuguese colonialist troops, brought down 2 aircraft, blasted out of commission 23 vehicles, sent to the bottom or heavily damaged 5 vessels. The enemy sweep on the Mores liberated area was foiled. All the crew aboard the two downed aircraft on the southern battlefield were killed.

DOFFAR: The people's liberation army continually assailed the adversary in Dayer Dayeb (December 20), Kheifal (January 2), Masfil and Apwat (December 5 and 12), and intercepted an enemy vessel which was to land on the Morbat coast (January 3) and a group of adverse troops intruding onto the Matabtawi high plateaux (January 13). In these engagements, 69 British colonialist troops including 2 officers were wiped out, 2 artillery emplacements destroyed and several posts blotted out.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION